



Northern District of Illinois, Eastern Division
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**President Announces Intent to Nominate Judges Iain D. Johnston and Franklin U. Valderrama
to U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Illinois**

Chicago, Ill. - On February 5, 2020, the President announced his intent to nominate U.S. Magistrate Judge Iain D. Johnston, Northern District of Illinois, and Associate Circuit Judge Franklin U. Valderrama, Circuit Court of Cook County, to serve as U.S. District Court Judges for the Northern District of Illinois.

“Our court is extremely pleased by the nomination of these two distinguished jurists and eagerly awaits their confirmations,” said Chief Judge Rebecca R. Pallmeyer.

Judge Johnston currently serves as U.S. Magistrate Judge on the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Illinois in the court’s Western Division in Rockford. Before joining the bench in 2013, Judge Johnston was a unit supervisor for the Office of the Illinois Attorney General and in private practices with Alheimer & Gray, Holland & Knight LLP, and Johnston Greene LLC. Upon graduation from law school, Judge Johnston served as a law clerk to Judge Philip G. Reinhard of the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Illinois. Judge Johnston also serves as an adjunct professor at UIC John Marshall Law School. Judge Johnston earned his undergraduate degree from Rockford College and his law degree from UIC John Marshall Law School.

Judge Valderrama currently serves as an Associate Judge in the Circuit Court of Cook County. Prior to joining the bench in 2007, Judge Valderrama was a partner at Sanchez, Daniels & Hoffman LLP, where his practice focused on trial litigation. Judge Valderrama has also served as an adjunct professor at UIC John Marshall Law school. Judge Valderrama earned his

undergraduate from the University of Illinois at Chicago and his law degree from the DePaul University College of Law.

There are currently three district judge vacancies on the Northern District of Illinois district court bench. John F. Kness was nominated to the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Illinois on June 24, 2019 and is currently awaiting confirmation by the U.S. Senate.

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